

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 TEGUCI 01603 051748Z  
ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-13 DHA-02 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02  
SS-15 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 L-03 H-01 /063 W  
-----052359Z 070406 /73

R 051711 APR 77  
FM AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6292

CONFIDENTIAL TEGUCIGALPA 1603

FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY TODMAN FROM AMBASSADOR BECKER

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PFOR, US, BR  
SUBJECT: COMMENTS OF BRAZILIAN AMBASSADOR ON U.S./BRAZILIAN RELATIONS

1. I HAVE KNOWN BRAZIL FOR 25 YEARS AND HAVE BEEN DECORATED TWICE BY THE BRAZILIAN GOVERNMENT. THE BRAZILIAN AMBASSADOR TO HONDURAS, FERNANDO CESAR DE BITTENCOURT BERENGUER, HAS SERVED MANY YEARS IN THE

U.S. AS CONSUL GENERAL IN SEVERAL CITIES. I BELIEVE THAT HE IS A SINCERE FRIEND OF THE U.S. AND IS CONCERNED ABOUT THE STATE OF U.S./BRAZILIAN RELATIONS. (THOUGH I DON'T KNOW DE BITTENCOURT, WE ESTABLISHED A GOOD RELATIONSHIP BECAUSE OF MUTUAL FRIENDS WE HAVE KNOWN FOR 25 YEARS.) I THINK THAT YOU WILL BE INTERESTED IN HIS CONFIDENTIAL COMMENTS TO ME AND ARE IN THE BEST POSITION TO EVALUATE THEIR SIGNIFICANCE. HIS CONCERN IS THAT THE GOB MAY VOTE WITH THIRD WORLD COUNTRIES IN THE UNITED NATIONS ON VARIOUS ISSUES IN RETALIATION FOR THE U.S. STATEMENTS ON HUMAN RIGHTS IN BRAZIL.

2. DURING A COURTESY CALL ON APRIL 1 (HE HAD JUST RETURNED FROM A FOUR MONTH VACATION), HE TOLD ME THAT THE HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUE HAD GALVANIZED

THE BRAZILIAN OPPOSITION INTO CHALLENGING THE REGIME.  
HE REMARKED THAT THE GOB WAS MOST CONCERNED ABOUT THE  
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SITUATION; IN HIS OPINION, U.S./BRAZILIAN RELATIONS HAD ENTERED A "FROZEN PERIOD". HE COMMENTED THAT THERE HAD BEEN LONG STANDING FRIENDLY RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES IN WAR AND PEACE, AND THAT

THE RELATIONSHIP HAD BEEN MORE FUNDAMENTAL THAN OTHER U.S./LATIN TIES.

IN HIS OPINION, WHEN THE "FREEZE" STARTS TO "THAW" THE U.S. SHOULD BE VIGILANT TO TAKE ALL POSSIBLE MEASURES (ECONOMIC, SOCIAL, CULTURAL) TO ENSURE THAT THERE IS A FULL RETURN TO THE TRADITIONALLY GOOD RELATIONS.

BECKER

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NNN

\*\*\* Current Handling Restrictions \*\*\* n/a

\*\*\* Current Classification \*\*\* CONFIDENTIAL

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptoning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
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**Concepts:** FOREIGN RELATIONS, HUMAN RIGHTS  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
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**Review Markings:**  
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